15 Fundamentals for Higher Performance in Software Development: Includes discussions on CMMI, Lean Six Sigma, Agile and SEMAT's Essence Framework

Paul E. McMahon

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Millions of dollars are spent annually on process improvement initiatives that too frequently fall short of their goals. Due at least in part to this situation, today many are turned off and have tuned out when it comes to the multitude of process and performance improvement approaches along with their related hype and buzzwords. Agile, CMMI, Kanban, Lean, Six Sigma, Lean Six Sigma, PSP, and TSP to name just a few.

Drawing on decades of process improvement experience, author Paul E. McMahon explains why we are facing these problems and how you can get yourself and your organization back on track focused on the things that matter most to both your own personal performance and your organization's performance. This book is equally about personal and organizational performance.

This book discusses many popular improvement approaches including the CMMI, Lean Six Sigma, and Agile Retrospectives; it highlights fifteen (15) fundamentals common to all successful improvement efforts where sustainable high value performance improvements are achieved; and it shares a vision (and an actual example that holds promise) of a simple "thinking framework" that can help counter the patterns that may be holding you and your organization back from the sustainable high performance you seek.

Paul also shares real examples from his consulting experiences, a personal performance improvement experience, and stories from high performing athletes and musicians to help you think about performance improvement outside-the-box.

Praise for 15 Fundamentals...

"…this book is about far more than CMMI…I believe that it's critical that we listen to, think about, and then act on the criticisms that Paul shares with us…. Should you read this book? If you are interested in software process improvement, if you are responsible for an agile transformation effort, or if you are an IT professional who wants to get better at what they do, then I also think the answer is a resounding yes. In short, Paul has written another great one."
Scott Ambler, Co-Author of Disciplined Agile Delivery: A Practitioner's Guide to Agile Software Delivery in the Enterprise

"Paul has a refreshingly different approach to process improvement. It is based on sound theory, personal observations over a long career, and his participation in the groundbreaking SEMAT project. This book is a perfect counterpoint to the traditional improvement methods so often applied with CMMI, Six Sigma, and other improvement approaches. Read it and then wonder how you ever survived those other approaches."
Dr. Richard Turner, Co-Author of CMMI Survival Guide: Just Enough Process Improvement

"Many efforts have been made to capture the enormous breadth and depth of knowledge and practices necessary to improve organizational performance. Until now, these efforts have either woefully lacked for substance or completeness. More likely, other efforts simply gave up on the fantasy of being complete and settled for a focus on a tiny subset of what's needed to be said. Through masterful architecting of ideas,

Paul's 15 Fundamentals for Higher Performance in Software Development offers a readily digestible framework to provide both substance and completeness to a very large, complex and important subjects."
Hillel Glazer, Author, High Performance Operations, CMMI High Maturity Lead Appraiser

"Paul has done a great job looking at a wide spectrum of prevalent software methods, without a bias for or against any, and come up with a few practical tips for a sustained performance improvement. If you are short of time or don't know where to start the book, jump to the 15 fundamentals. They are worth their weight in gold."
Prabhakar R. Karve, Director of Engineering, Impetus

"I very much like the 'out of the box' approach. The book exemplifies high maturity thinking in a simple way."
Winifred Menezes, CMMI High Maturity Lead Appraiser

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